

Coins

After face-lift, Anthony dollar is set to circulate

By Roger Boye

WHEN THE United States Mint showed off the first draft of its design for the new Susan B. Anthony dollar coin, the suffragette's great-niece started to gripe.

The portrait was unacceptable because the artist left out Anthony's unique facial characteristics, complained Susan B. Anthony III. In fact, the design looked "more like that Miss Liberty those tricky mint people want than Aunt Susan," she said in *Coin World*.

The criticism sent Frank Gasparro, the mint's chief sculptor and engraver, back to the drawing board. He strengthened Anthony's cheek bone, added detail to the eye and eyelid, and even adjusted the nose, creating the likeness of a stern-looking, middle-aged Anthony. The second and final draft is acceptable not only to Anthony's distant relative, but also to Treasury Department executives.

Gasparro's recently released depiction of Anthony, the 19th-Century crusader for women's rights, eventually will be stamped into billions of dollar coins that the experts hope will circulate widely. If Americans use the coins, the government will reduce the number of dollar bills in circulation and save on printing costs.

Mint executives want to put the Anthony dollar into circulation in the middle of 1979 after 500 million coins have been made. Those plans were announced even before the U.S. House had approved, in late September, the bill that authorized mintage of the coin (the Senate passed the bill in August).

Although the new dollar will be just slightly larger than a quarter, mint officials say the coin will be easy to identify because of an unusual 11-sided inner border on both sides. The tails side will have a reduced version of the Apollo eagle design now used on the reverse of the larger Eisenhower dollar.

Incidentally, the Anthony dollar legislation allows the mint to produce a 40 per cent silver Eisenhower dollar next year, but only for sale to collectors.

THREE AREA coin clubs will conduct their annual shows next weekend; each extravaganza is open to the public and will include coin exhibits and a bourse (several dealers on hand to sell and buy coins).

The Hammond Coin Club show will be held from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. next Sunday in the Woodmar Shopping Center mall, 165th Street and Indianapolis Boulevard in Hammond.

The other two shows each will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. next Sunday. The North Shore Coin Club will meet at the Sheraton North Shore Inn, 933 Skokie Blvd., Northbrook, and the Club of Illinois Numismatists exhibition will be at the

Holiday Inn-Harvey, near the intersection of Halsted Street and Int. Hwy. 80-294.

COLLECTORS have until about Oct. 31 to order 1978 uncirculated coin sets from the U.S. Mint.

Each set costs \$7 — the same as last year — and contains 12 coins: a dollar through cent from both the Philadelphia and Denver mints. The coins with a face value of \$3.82 are sealed in two envelopes made of thin polyester.

To order, send a check or money order to Bureau of the Mint, 55 Mint St., San Francisco, Cal. 94175. A maximum of five sets may be ordered per person, and the mint promises that sets will be mailed by Dec. 31.

The cut-off date for orders will come before Oct. 31 if the mint receives more orders than expected.